(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has no specific programme for providing assistance to States for mapping water resources. Necessary studies are undertaken by respective State Governments themselves. However, technical assistance is provided by various organisations under the Ministry of Water Resources to States as and when requested.

Proposal for financial assistance by Government of Punjab

1697. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has sent any proposal to the Centre for financial assistance to strengthen its canals, which require urgent attention;

(b) whether it is a fact that Punjab faces a serious problem of water logging and solvation specially in the districts of Faridkot, Muktsar, and Ferozpur; and

(c) whether the Centre has considered the proposal; and

(d) if so, how much money has been sanctioned for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) South Western Districts of Punjab namely Faridkot, Muktasar and Ferozpur are badly affected by salinisation and water logging.

Government of Punjab has proposed 4 schemes of Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) namely Modernization of Canals being fed from river Sutlej, Relining of Sirhind Feeder from RD 119700-447927, Relining of Rajasthan Feeder from RD 117900-496800 and Raising of Lining/ Bank of Sirhind Feeder. These are various stages of appraisal.

Earlier, the State Government had sent a concept note on the proposals for relining of Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder, to overcome water logging and salinity problems in the districts of Faridkot, Muktasar and Ferozpur and sought financial assistance.

Since the Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in 1996, Central Loan Assistance/Central Assistance of Rs. 99.33 crore, Rs. 24.72 crore and Rs. 13.50 crore have been released to three ERM projects *viz.* Remodeling of UBDC System (completed in 2006-07), Extension of Kandi Canal, Stage-II (ongoing with effect from 2002-03) and Rehabilitation of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch Canal (ongoing with effect from 2007-08).

Dangerous level of groundwater

1698. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the groundwater in various parts of the country which is used for drinking purposes contain dangerous level of lead as reported in media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;